



June 2, 2017

Honorable Tom Rooney  
United States Congress  
2160 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rooney,

On behalf of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), I am writing to offer our support of your efforts to restore Congress' Constitutional authority to make needed investments in our country's aging infrastructure. While your efforts are currently focused on vetted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation projects, we believe that restoring this critical Constitutional authority will allow a future Congress to prioritize funding for transportation projects, like the public transit infrastructure investments that are being made across the State of Florida. These projects are already scrutinized for their scientific and economic merit, and promote President Trump's agenda to restore America's aging infrastructure.

Floridians use more than 40 urban transit systems, including, two (2) commuter railroads, a heavy-rail commuter system, paratransit operations, and two people mover systems, with a combine annual ridership of over 270 million. Nearly 90 percent of public transportation trips directly benefit the economy by getting people to work and connecting them to local businesses. Throughout Florida, the public transit industry is implementing important infrastructure projects in our key urban areas including Jacksonville, Orlando, Broward County, and Pinellas County. It is welcome to see your support for Army Corps' projects that have similar public appreciation, and it is most appropriate for our elected representatives, the Congress, to participate in the prioritization and funding process.

Like the Corps' traditional process, the annual appropriations process used to give transit agencies a chance to secure funding for vetted transit capital projects, such as necessary bus replacements to ensure reliable service to our customers. But since 2011 this practice has been banned under the earmark moratorium. The earmark moratorium presents a consistent challenge for our local economy, particularly when we have no recourse to advocate for necessary federal funds for transportation projects that are endorsed by a range of local interests.

*Executive Director: Lisa M. Bacot*

Phone 850.878.0855 > Fax 850.878.0725

PO Box 10168 > Tallahassee, FL 32302 > E-mail [LisaBacot@FloridaTransit.org](mailto:LisaBacot@FloridaTransit.org) > Web [www.floridatransit.org](http://www.floridatransit.org)



FPTA supports your efforts to establish limited exceptions to the earmark moratorium in the hopes that it can be strategically expanded from Corps' projects to transportation investments as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Bacot', is centered on the page.

Lisa Bacot  
Executive Director